

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~May 15th, 1959COCOM Document No. 3415.29/2COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONONGERMAN STATEMENT CONCERNING ITEM 1529(b) - FREQUENCY MEASURING EQUIPMENTMay 11th, 1959

Present: Belgium (Luxembourg), Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

Reference: COCOM 3415.29/1.

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the record of statement by the German Delegate concerning Item 1529(b) - Frequency measuring equipment. He invited Delegates to give the views of their authorities.
2. The UNITED STATES Delegate said that his authorities interpreted the word accuracy to be the frequency constancy within 24 hours.
3. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate said that the views of the United Kingdom technical authorities were that the definition of Item 1529 had always dealt with frequency measurement in terms of accuracy of measurement. The question of the stability of the measuring equipment over a period of time either over twenty-four hours or over two hours as mentioned by the German Delegation in COCOM 3415.29/1, did not appear to be of relevance to the accuracy of the measurement equipment. It was clear to the United Kingdom technical authorities that, whatever the stability of the measuring equipment over a period longer than that necessary to complete a measurement, if frequency could be measured to an accuracy better than that now indicated in the definition, the equipment was embargoed.
4. The FRENCH Delegate said that the German Delegation appeared to be placing accuracy and frequency constancy on the same level. When frequency was measured with a very great accuracy, the measuring must necessarily be carried out over a period of some length. It was therefore useful to have a standard which varied as little as possible. This variation was usually called the equipment's "timekeeping property" (garde-temps), that is, the faculty which the equipment possessed for keeping a steady frequency over a longer or shorter period, as the German Delegation had pointed out. However, by "precision" in sub-item 1529(b), the Committee were considering the possibility of estimating a frequency at the value indicated. The "timekeeping property" (garde-temps) depended upon the measuring time. The problem was highly complex. The French Delegation would be grateful to the German Delegation if they would be good enough to let them know what type of equipment they had in mind and, if possible, to give them an explanatory text concerning this equipment.
5. The GERMAN Delegate thanked the Members of the Committee for the views which had been expressed and undertook to reply as soon as possible to the questions raised by the French Delegate.